ANNEX

National Assessments of the Republic of Türkiye on "Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain and Its Impact on International Peace and Security"

The development and deployment of Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technologies must be conducted in strict compliance with existing international law, particularly International Humanitarian Law, and universal norms. Maintaining "human control" over the use of AI-based technologies in the military domain, including lethal autonomous weapon systems, and upholding the principles of accountability, transparency, and the international legal responsibility of States remain core priorities for Türkiye.

International efforts to regulate AI and autonomous systems in the military domain must not disregard the inherent right of States to self-defence and their legitimate national security requirements.

Türkiye advocates for a flexible and balanced approach that does not stifle technological progress and innovation. In this context, premature, overly restrictive, and rigidly binding legal norms that could limit or hinder the rights of States to develop their R&D activities, innovation capabilities, and domestic defence industries or create an asymmetric disadvantage against certain countries, should be avoided. Given the dynamic nature of technological advancement, focusing on confidence-building measures that promote the sharing of best practices and the construction of a common understanding would be a more constructive approach than implementing preemptive prohibitions.

One of the key areas regarding AI-enabled autonomous systems and technologies is the strengthening of control mechanisms through international cooperation to prevent the misuse and illicit proliferation of these technologies.

Türkiye, leveraging its advanced technology experience gained both in the field and in production, will continue to actively contribute to transparent, inclusive, and constructive international dialogue processes regarding the responsible use of AI in the military domain.

REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE • PERMANENT MISSION-UN GENEVA •

STATEMENT BY H.E. BURAK AKÇAPAR

AMBASSADOR, PERMAMENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TÜRKİYE TO UNOG, CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SWITZERLAND
AT OPENING SESSION OF INFORMAL EXCHANGES ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN THE MILITARY DOMAIN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

15 JUNE 2026

Madam Chair,

As a co-sponsor of GA Resolution 80/58, we commend UNODA and the co-facilitators the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea for convening this dialogue.
The future has arrived!

AI is already rapidly transforming the military domain. Multilateral dialogue is essential to seizing both the opportunities and the challenges this transformation presents.

Türkiye firmly believes that AI, when and if developed and applied responsibly, holds significant potential to enhance military effectiveness, reduce human error, and ultimately strengthen international peace and security. For that, the active engagement of the private sector is essential. For that international cooperation is also vital.

The focus on establishing a common conceptual foundation is particularly welcome. As AI technologies continue to evolve at pace, shared terminology across technical, military, legal, and policy communities should assist effective multilateral dialogue.

Differences in terminology across national and cultural contexts should not hinder productive dialogue. We take this opportunity to invite UNODA and UNIDIR to develop and publish glossaries to promote agreed terminologies as common points of reference, while remaining flexible enough to accommodate the constantly evolving technology.

On the other hand, States must develop robust due diligence frameworks for the procurement of AI-enabled military systems, including reviews, testing certification, and transparency regarding system capabilities and limitations. Procurement decisions should be informed by a clear understanding of the system's intended and potential uses, failure modes, and accountability mechanisms.

And, we join others in underscoring concerns about the unauthorized transfer of AI-enabled military technologies to non-state actors and terrorist groups.

Madam Chair,

At the national level, Türkiye has been actively developing policies and frameworks governing AI in the military domain, guided by the principles of legality, responsibility, and human oversight.

We subscribe to the 11 Guiding Principles, which establish that human control and responsibility must be maintained over weapons systems. Türkiye underscores that potential

use of weapons systems based on emerging technologies must strictly align with applicable international law, specifically IHL.

On 13 June, Türkiye unveiled its new national AI strategy and action plan, building on the National Artificial Intelligence Strategy 2021–2025 and addressing emerging priorities such as agentic AI systems, sovereign AI approaches, and data sovereignty.

The Plan commits 10 billion US dollars in investment, targets one gigawatt of data centre capacity by 2030, and rests on four pillars: awareness, use, production and governance. These interconnected pillars entail a roadmap that aims to increase AI literacy and foster an advanced ecosystem of AI.

The newly launched plan explicitly recognises that political, military and economic strength and resilience can no longer be separated from digital sovereignty, data security and cyber resilience.

Türkiye approaches these discussions not as an observer to AI development but as an active participant in shaping it. Türkiye's defence industry is at the forefront of responsible AI-enabled technology development.

Türkiye has also been an active participant in the REAIM process. Regional consultation we hosted in Istanbul provided a platform for regional states to exchange perspectives on responsible use of AI in the military domain.

Türkiye participated in the first and second summits in the Netherlands and Republic of Korea, and supported the "Pathways to Action" declaration at the third REAIM Summit, held in A Coruña, that set out concrete implementation measures across the AI life cycle, building on the Call to Action and the Blueprint for Action. We remain committed to advancing inclusive, multi-regional dialogue on these issues.

Thank you.

OTHER STATEMENTS DELIVERED BY TÜRKİYE

Session 2: Foundational terminology and concepts

We welcome the inclusion of this session in the program. As AI technologies continue to evolve at pace, the absence of shared terminology across technical, military, legal and policy communities represents a genuine obstacle to effective multilateral dialogue. And as Kirsten pointed out, also significant hurdles at the implementation phase of potential agreed frameworks.

Many of us have witnessed the difficulties posed by absence of agreed terminologies in advancing ongoing processes related to AI MD. We spent hours, if not cumulative time that can be expressed in days discussing, meaning of a single word. We agree with Xiao's observation that differences in terminology across national and cultural contexts can hinder productive dialogue. I echo her sentiment: How can we agree on rules if we cannot agree on the terminology?

Therefore, we encourage efforts to develop agreed glossaries or reference frameworks that can serve as common points of reference, while remaining flexible enough to accommodate evolving technologies.

As we underlined this morning, we invite UNODA and UNIDIR to develop and publish glossaries in a regular manner that would help us in forging agreed terminologies. I hope today's session could start a process that develops common concepts for all of us.

Session 3: Current developments and trends in AI in the Military Domain

Türkiye views the rapid advancement of AI in the military domain as a development that carries significant opportunities alongside risks that must be carefully managed.

Among the most relevant current developments, we note the increasing integration of AI into intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance systems.

The use of AI for logistics optimization and predictive maintenance, the application of AI in cyber security and cyber defense and the growing role of AI in decision support systems at various levels of command.

These applications, when developed responsibly and in accordance with international law, have the potential to enhance operational effectiveness, reduce human casualties and support civilian protection.

Türkiye is also attentive to potential risks. The risk of miscalculation stemming from AI system failures or adversarial manipulation, the potential for lower thresholds for the use of force and concerns about arms race dynamics in AI enabled weapons systems are all issues that merit serious multilateral attention.

Türkiye's own approach is grounded in responsible development and deployment.

Our defense industry, including companies such as HAVELSAN which is represented today among the panellists is engaged in developing AI enabled systems with built-in safeguards and compliance mechanisms.

We believe that states can and must harness the benefits of AI while putting in place appropriate guardrails, including through national policies, export controls and the promotion of responsible use standards at the international level.

Private sector is a key driver of innovation of AI in military domain. We need closer coordination and collaboration with them in addressing risks to avoid stifling innovation. We also wish to highlight that developing countries must not be left behind in this domain.

Inclusive capacity building and technology cooperation are essential to ensure that all states can participate in and contribute to the governance of AI in the military domain.

Session 4: The Life Cycle of AI in the Military Domain (Part 1)

Türkiye welcomes the life cycle approach as a useful and comprehensive framework for addressing AI governance in the military domain.

The systems my country develops aim to reduce uncertainty for decision makers, enhance situational awareness and improve the safety and survivability of personnel operating in complex environments.

Like many speakers who took the floor before me, we underscore the importance of integrating legal and ethical considerations from the very outset of the AI development process.

At the pre-design and design stages, states and developers must assess potential applications against obligations under applicable international humanitarian law.

On data quality and representativeness, Türkiye agrees that decisions regarding data collection, curation and security at early life cycle stages have profound downstream consequences.

Biased or incomplete data can lead to discriminatory or unreliable system outputs with potentially serious operational and humanitarian implications.

On evaluation and testing, Türkiye believes that rigorous testing, verification, validation and evaluation are essential before any AI enabled system is deployed in operational environments.

We encourage states to develop and share best practices on testing methodologies, including red teaming, adverse serial testing and legal compliance reviews.

Also encourages private sector and defense industry actors to embed responsible AI principles into their development processes.

We also urge them to engage constructively with governments and multilateral bodies on emerging standards.

Session 5: The Life Cycle of AI in the Military Domain (Part 2)

Türkiye firmly supports the principle of meaningful human control. Humans must remain the decision-makers in any use of force, including where AI-enabled systems provide decision support. This principle is not merely an ethical preference. It reflects obligations under applicable IHL which demand human judgment and accountability.

While well-designed decision support tools may enhance operational effectiveness and decision-making, they must be developed and used in ways that do not undermine the quality or accountability of human judgment.

Türkiye also notes the particular challenges posed by time-sensitive operations where the speed of AI processing may create pressure on human operators. Appropriate override mechanisms and decision validation processes must be built into systems deployed in such environments. Appropriate training of personnel interacting with AI-enabled systems is equally important.

From Türkiye's perspective, the objective should not be to restrict technological progress but rather to ensure that innovation proceeds in a responsible manner that strengthens operational security while remaining fully consistent with applicable international law.

On escalation dynamics, Türkiye shares concerns about the potential for AI-enabled systems to inadvertently accelerate escalation or reduce opportunities for de-escalation.

Transparency measures, hotlines and confidence-building measures among states with AI-enabled military capabilities deserve serious multilateral attention.

Regarding the broader multilateral discussion on autonomous weapon systems, Türkiye's position is that discussions on lethal autonomous weapon systems should remain anchored within the framework of CCW which provides the appropriate expert-based state-led forum for such deliberations.

Session 6: The Life Cycle of AI in the Military Domain (Part 3)

Türkiye welcomes the discussion of the later stages of the AI life cycle. We also welcome active engagement from the industry and academia with a focus on technicalities, which is one of the added values of this forum.

We look forward to continuing this multi-stakeholder discussion in the future as the sector and the technologies deriving the sector evolve.

Moving to the subject matter, Türkiye believes that states must develop robust due diligence frameworks for the procurement of AI enabled military systems, including reviews, testing, certification, and transparency regarding system capabilities and limitations.

Procurement decisions should be informed by clear understanding of the systems intended and potential uses, failure modes and accountability mechanisms.

As we highlighted in our opening statement, Türkiye shares concerns about the unauthorized transfer of AI enabled military technologies to non-state actors and terrorist groups. Maintaining legal compliance throughout the operational life of a system is not a one-time exercise.

Systems must be continuously monitored with update and remediation processes in place to address newly identified risks or changes in the operational environment.

Session 7: AI and Other Technologies

Türkiye welcomes the opportunity to address the convergence of AI with other technologies which the Secretariat General's report identifies as a significant dimension of the broader AIMD challenge.

As many before me pointed out, convergence of AI with ICT, biology, chemistry and nuclear systems creates both opportunities and risks that are qualitatively different from those posed by AI alone.

I think we are yet to discover and fully comprehend what they really entail for humanity as a whole. I also want to echo the speakers before me who highlighted the heightened risks in terms of proliferation.

In the cyber domain, AI is both a powerful tool for defense and a potential enabler of more sophisticated attacks.

In the biological domain, AI accelerated design tools raise concerns about misuse for the development of biological agents. These convergences require cross-domain thinking and policy coordination.

Türkiye welcomes the existing frameworks of the BWC and CWC as important reference points.

The science and technology mechanism that we are trying to establish under BWC will enable us to develop sounder governance approaches to AI convergences.

It will also help us diplomats understand better what the dramatic scientific and technological transformation of the last half century implies and entails for our convention.

Türkiye encourages a coherent approach that builds on existing multilateral frameworks rather than creating fragmented new processes.

Existing treaty bodies and expert mechanisms should be enabled to address AI convergence issues within their respective mandates while ensuring coordination to avoid duplication.

Session 8 (16:30-18:00): International Cooperation & Capacity-Building in Artificial Intelligence in the Military Domain

Türkiye attaches great importance to international cooperation and capacity building as essential elements of any effective governance framework for AIMD.

While technology advances at an unprecedented pace, significant disparities remain among countries in terms of expertise, infrastructure, regulatory capacity and access to technology.

If left unaddressed, these gaps may themselves become sources of instability and insecurity. Last decade we were talking about the digital gap. Now we are faced with an ever expanding AI gulf.

Therefore, international cooperation efforts should remain inclusive, practical and focused on delivering tangible benefits to all states, particularly developing countries. We should leave no one behind.

At the international level, we attach importance to knowledge sharing, exchange of best practices, training programs and peer-to-peer cooperation.

Türkiye's engagement with the REAIM process exemplifies our commitment to inclusive regional dialogue.

Hosting one of the REAIM regional consultations in close coordination with the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Republic of Korea in Istanbul, we brought together states from across the region to share perspectives and identify capacity needs.

We supported the pathways to action declaration adopted at the third REAIM summit in A Coruna and this declaration is a valuable reference document as it sets out practical recommendations on capacity building, training and the operationalization of responsible AI principles.

On priority capacity building areas Türkiye would highlight the following: Legal and policy expertise for assessing AI-enabled systems in light of applicable IHL obligations. Technical expertise for evaluation and testing of military AI systems.

Policy frameworks for procurement and export control and awareness raising and training for military personnel operating AI enabled systems.

Türkiye supports leveraging existing multilateral mechanisms for capacity building and relevant treaty bodies.

We also encourage states with advanced AI capabilities to contribute to capacity building initiatives for developing countries on a voluntary basis consistent with their obligations under international law.

Session 9: Information exchange on State-led initiatives related to AI in the military domain

Türkiye recognizes the transformative potential of AI and autonomous systems in enhancing security while underscoring the importance of responsible use and adherence to applicable international law.

These considerations are reflected in Türkiye's national AI strategy, which provides the overarching framework for the responsible development and deployment of AI technologies grounded in ethical principles, human rights, democratic values and the rule of law.

Türkiye views AI not as a substitute for human will, discretion or accountability but as a strategic decision support mechanism that enhances the accuracy of human judgment and its compliance with applicable international humanitarian law.

National guidelines on the responsible use of AI in the military domain are developed and updated in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Turkish defense industry.

The presidency of defense industries namely the SSB coordinates AI related research, development and procurement activities in this regard. To foster innovation and responsible development, Türkiye has established distinctive institutional cooperation models.

The defense industry AI talent cluster established under the leadership of the SSB serves as a bridge connecting civilian technological expertise, academia and emerging talent with the defense ecosystem.

Similarly, we are shaping our national technology roadmaps in autonomous systems, swarm intelligence, cognitive electronic warfare and AI supported analysis architectures through the Future AI Technologies Focused Technology Network.

Türkiye has also translated its commitment on this field into tangible outcomes. HAVELSAN, for example, is developing AI-enabled systems with a focus on reliability, human oversight and legal compliance. Their participation in international fora, including as a speaker in session 3 of these exchanges, reflects the importance Türkiye attaches to multistakeholder engagement.

We believe that national initiatives should converge around shared objectives, namely enhancing operational predictability and minimizing the risks associated with AI systems.

At the international level, Türkiye has consistently supported the REAIM process co-led by the Kingdom of Netherlands and Republic of Korea since its inception and has actively participated in the core group discussions on the GA resolutions concerning the responsible use of AI in the military domain.

Türkiye has also joined over 50 UN Member States in endorsing the political declaration on responsible military use of AI and Autonomy and has acceded to the Bletchley Declaration.

As noted in yesterday's session, we also hosted REAIM regional consultations in Istanbul in May 2024, which provided a platform for regional states to exchange perspectives on the responsible use of AI in the military domain.

With its operational and technological expertise, Türkiye will continue to support constructive confidence building initiatives aimed at advancing global standards for the responsible, accountable and human controlled use of military AI.

Session 11: Existing and Emerging Normative Proposals

Türkiye welcomes the discussion on existing and emerging normative proposals relating to AI in the military domain.

We approach this subject with a commitment to ensuring that normative frameworks are inclusive, balanced, technologically adaptable and anchored in existing international law.

We note that a number of normative initiatives have already emerged, including REAIM call to action and the Political Declaration on Responsible Military Use of AI and Autonomy.

New initiatives reflect a growing political will to address military AI governance, but also risk fragmentation if not properly coordinated.

Türkiye supports a principled approach to normative development that echoes some of the previous speakers' points.

First, that builds on and reinforces existing international law, including applicable IHL, rather than creating parallel or contradictory frameworks.

Second, that is inclusive and allows all states to participate meaningfully.

In this regard, international efforts to develop normative frameworks for AI in the military domain should fully respect States' inherent right of self-defence as well as their legitimate national security requirements. Türkiye therefore advocates a balanced and flexible approach that avoids creating unnecessary constraints on States' ability to address evolving security challenges.

We believe that States should refrain from pursuing premature, overly restrictive or legally binding norms that could limit legitimate research and development activities, impede innovation, or create asymmetric disadvantages for certain countries.

On transparency and CBMs, Türkiye views TCBMs as a practical and immediately actionable area for progress.

Sharing information on national policies, doctrines and testing practices for military AI systems can build mutual understanding and reduce the risk of miscalculation.

Given the dynamic nature of technological developments, we believe that confidence-building measures, the voluntary exchange of best practices and development of common understandings offer a more constructive path forward than premature prescriptive regulation.

On the forum question, Türkiye reiterates its view that discussions on LAWS should remain within the CCW framework, which provides expert-based state-led deliberations in an appropriate context.

Türkiye encourages the international community to pursue a coherent, layered normative architecture that draws on the strengths of different fora while ensuring overall coherence and universality.

Session 12: Next Steps on AI in the Military Domain

As we conclude these three days of intensive discussions, Türkiye wishes to share some reflections on next steps.

We believe that future international discussions should continue to recognize States' sovereign right to pursue legitimate research, development and innovation in AI-enabled defence

technologies for their security, while promoting their responsible use in accordance with applicable international law.

A key priority should be to advance a common understanding of how human judgment, accountability and oversight can be meaningfully and sustainably exercised throughout the entire life cycle of AI enabled military systems.

In parallel, discussions should contribute to the development of internationally shared principles and best practices to support full compliance with applicable international law, in particular, international humanitarian law.

Going forward, we should aim to build common understanding, identify areas of convergence among states and develop a coherent approach to AIMD.

This should not mean premature normative closure but rather:
-continued dialogue that enables capacity building for developing countries,
-developing TCBMs, voluntary exchange of national policies and doctrines
-and addressing of challenges posed by non-state actors including terrorist organizations in all its forms and manifestations, which increasingly seek to exploit emerging technologies in ways that threaten international peace and security, by strengthening control mechanisms through international cooperation.

In our future endeavours, particular attention should be given to reducing technological disparities among states and ensuring that developing countries can participate effectively in international discussions and benefit from capacity building and knowledge sharing initiatives.

Türkiye believes that future work on AIMD should be structured in a dynamic framework that protects the sovereign rights and decision-making mechanisms of states and remains practical and well regulated by the states while benefiting from the technical expertise of relevant international organizations, defense industry and technology companies, academia and civil society.

Türkiye supports continued engagement and the exploration of options for a structured follow-up process under the UNGA auspices that complements existing frameworks.

We also once again caution against fragmentation of efforts. In this regard, we believe that Geneva with its unique concentration of diplomatic, legal, technical and humanitarian expertise provides a particularly suitable venue for advancing these discussions.

At the same time, we should ensure complementarity, coherence and mutual reinforcement among existing processes in order to avoid duplication of efforts and resources. Türkiye deems GGE established within the CCW as the primary forum for normative discussions on LAWS.

By way of conclusion, I reiterate Türkiye's commitment to engaging constructively in all relevant forums and support the development of a responsible and inclusive governance framework for AI in the military domain.

I also take this opportunity to thank UNODA for their excellent preparation and execution of these three days.

We also appreciate active participation of civil society, academia and industry, both as panellists and as speakers whose interventions have enriched our discussions.

We look forward to building on this week's fruitful conversations in the period ahead in close coordination with the core group.